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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/734,143	12/15/2003	Junji Machida	325772026410	9282
7590 04/15/2004				
Barry E. Bretschneider Morrison & Foerster LLP Suite 300 1650 Tysons Boulevard McLean, VA 22102		EXAMINER BRASE, SANDRA L		
		ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER		
		2852		
DATE MAILED: 04/15/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/734,143

Applicant(s)

MACHIDA ET AL.

Examiner

Sandra L. Brase

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/924,494.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/5/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the coat layer laid over the elastic layer of the charge roller must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it does not describe the invention as defined by the present claims. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

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claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurokawa et al. (US 5,619,311) in view of Kasuya et al. (US 5,571,653).

6. Kurokawa et al. (...311) disclose an image forming apparatus comprising: an image bearing member (204, 304, 2104, 3103 and 3401); a charger member (101, 2102 and 3101) disposed in contacting relation with the image bearing member, and having a rubber hardness of more than 42 degrees, where the hardness can be in the range of 50 to 80 degrees (abstract; col. 3, line 53 – col. 4, line 12; col. 7, line 55 – col. 8, line 11; col. 21, line 56 – col. 22, line 7; and col. 22, lines 37-39 and 49-51) and a volume electrical resistance of $3 \times 10^8 \Omega \text{ cm}$ (col. 7, lines 60-61); a developing device (2405, 3105 and 3403) including a developer carrying member for carrying a toner on its surface; and a transfer member (3106 and 3404) for transferring the toner image thus formed on the image bearing member onto a receiving medium. The charging member is a roller and comprises a metallic roller and a surface layer laid over an outer periphery of the roller (abstract; col. 7, lines 55-65; and col. 16, lines 18-23). The charging roller may have a coat layer laid over the elastic layer (abstract; col. 7, lines 55-65; and col. 16, lines 23-29). However, Kurokawa et al. (...311) do not disclose the specific toner used. Kasuya et al. (...653) disclose a toner used in a developing device containing an organic aromatic solvent and a vinyl monomer in combined concentrations of not more than 1,000 ppm (abstract; col. 2, line

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50 – col. 3, line 15; col. 9, lines 29-36; and Table 2), where it is preferable that the combined concentrations be made not more than 700 ppm, and more preferably not more than 300 ppm (col. 9, lines 29-36). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the claimed type of toner, as disclosed by Kasuya et al. (...653), since such a toner is well known in the art for use with a developing device and this toner exhibits good fixing efficiency since it does not stick to a fixing member.

Prior Art

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Murata (US 5,270,768), Kurokawa et al. (US 5,499,078), Hirai et al. (US 5,625,858), Yamamoto et al. (US 5,671,468), Mizoe et al. (US 5,713,067) and Murata (US 6,243,552) disclose a charging roller.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sandra L. Brase whose telephone number is 571-272-2131. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur T. Grimley, can be reached on 571-272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sandra L. Brase". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandra" and last name "Brase" clearly distinguishable.

Sandra L. Brase
Primary Examiner
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April 8, 2004